

Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

December 30, 2018

Dear FCC Commissioners:

RE: NPRM 16-239

In the letter submitted to the commission dated November 10, 2018 by Theodore S. Rappaport, P.E., Ph.D., N9NB, he states:

*"In my personal conversations with FBI and FCC officials, they admit they also are unable to **readily** decode these types of transmissions. In my discussions with vendors of amateur radio equipment, they tell me that they are concerned about purchases of amateur radio equipment by criminal cartels, and that they **believe** it is happening daily."*

I am curious - exactly how big a problem is this? Which criminal cartels are we talking about? We have been cruising on our sailboat in the US and the Sea of Cortez Mexico for the last three years. I have yet to actually hear ONE instance where the cartels are using ham radio to communicate. Not one! With throw-away cell phone technology, I seriously doubt they would expend the effort or expense to set up a station, and find this claim ridiculous. And, just because something isn't able to be "readily" decoded, doesn't mean it isn't doable for those who have the knowledge to do so or aren't too lazy to put forth the effort.

What I think we have here is a gentleman (Theodore S. Rappaport) who stuck in the past and afraid to learn and understand the latest technology. Another example - I've been helping a 73 year-old man learn how to use a cellular smart phone. He curses it daily and misses the old land line phones terribly. I asked him if we should give up the combustion engine and go back to horse and buggy. Or give up antibiotics and go back to polio. He gets my point - progress happens. We are lucky to be born in this day and age where advances in technology can make our lives better and safer.

Being able to use our Icom-M802 Single Side Band to access Winlink and SailMail (both digital programs) to download weather grib files and access weather forecasts is literally lifesaving. We are also able to pass on weather information to those who don't have SSBs to keep them safe as well. Most of the anchorages in the Sea of Cortez that cruisers visit do not have internet or cell phone coverage.

I support the proposed rule changes for CFR97 stated in Docket No. 16-239.

Sincerely,

Carolee C. Tyson, KI7SMF
SV Shameless